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EAST PAKISTAN: Prospects of a serious famine in the coming months are increasing.

Reports from officials of US government and international agencies in East Pakistan are becoming more ominous. Rice production estimates for the crop year that ended last month have been revised downward to about 11 million tons compared with 12 million tons in the previous year. Projections for the current crop year are for only 9.5 million tons, indicating a food deficit of about 3.4 million tons.

Even if imports of this magnitude could be arranged, East Pakistan does not have the port facilities to handle them. It is unlikely that as much as two million tons can be moved through the distribution system. The ports are still operating far below capacity because port storage facilities are full and continuing disruptions of the internal transport system are hampering movement of foodgrains to the interior.

Much of the foodgrains reaching the people may have to be distributed free rather than through regular commercial channels because purchasing power is very low. Many cannot afford to buy the food that is available as a result of the closure of most factories and commercial establishments and the interruption of the rural works program, which normally employs several million landless laborers. Pakistan's recent demonitization of its two largest denomination notes has also contributed to rural cash shortages.

The military governor is publicly denying danger of famine, but the chairman of the government's food relief committee has privately admitted "there will be famine." East Pakistani civil officials, demoralized as a result of repression by the military and afraid to approach the military governor with the problem, are doing little to avert the famine.

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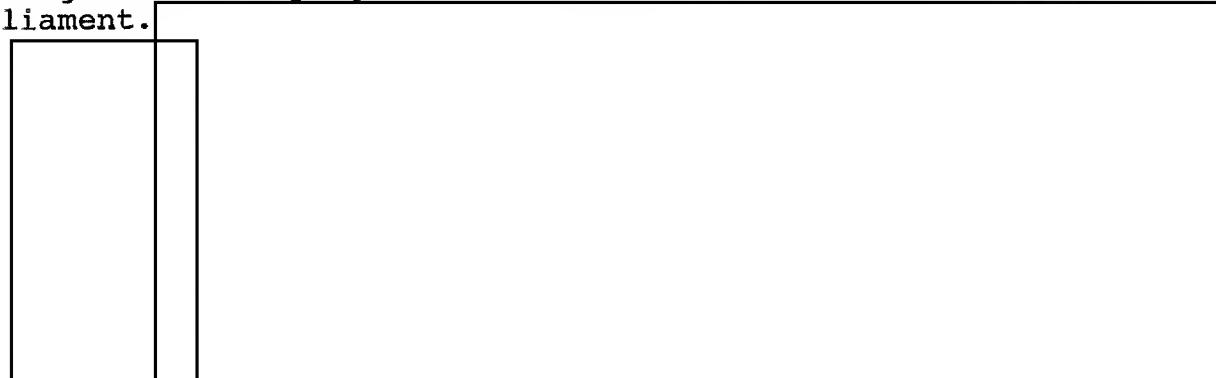
IRAN: Tomorrow's elections to the Majlis (National Assembly) and the Senate are expected to produce no surprises.

At stake are all of the 268 seats in the assembly and 30 elected Senate seats. Thirty other senators are appointed by the Shah. The ruling Iran Novin Party will probably retain most of its 85-percent majority, but may lose a few seats to the "loyal opposition" Mardom Party and the newly organized Iranians Party. The xenophobic Pan Iranists will probably field no candidates and become moribund.

All candidates must be approved by the Shah who, in some cases, will select opposition candidates for election to ensure at least a semblance of a two-party system. The new Majlis will probably contain more women and younger members than the previous assembly, reflecting the Shah's desire to give a more progressive appearance to the parliament.

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NOTES

JAPAN: Dollar flows into Japan declined considerably during the last full week in June, but this is not likely to relieve pressure for yen revaluation. Inflows totaled \$109 million, about one-third the average weekly level since hedging and speculation against the yen began in earnest in early May. Nevertheless, the level is well above the weekly average of \$23 million recorded last year. Over-all inflows for June came to over \$1 billion, thereby increasing Japan's reserves to more than \$8 billion.

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GUINEA - COMMUNIST CHINA: A Chinese freighter reportedly has delivered almost 1,500 tons of military equipment to Conakry for distribution to the Guinean armed forces, to anti-Portuguese forces in Guinea, and to the Malian Army. The delivery followed closely the visit in late May of a Chinese military delegation to both countries and may have been designed as an additional good-will gesture. A Guinean military delegation is now in Peking probably working out the details of a military agreement discussed earlier. Although the Chinese are seeking to develop closer ties with Guinea, it is unlikely that they will supplant the USSR as Guinea's main source of military assistance.

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